

Albuquerque Operations Office

memorandum

DATE: 10/21/97
REPLY TO:
ATTN OF: OMD
SUBJECT: Emergency Management Decision-Making
TO: John J. Nettles Jr., Director, Office of Emergency Management, NN-60, HQ

This memorandum is in response to the memorandum dated August 27, 1997, Subject: Lessons Learned from the Emergency Response to the May 14, 1997 Explosion at Hanford's Plutonium Reclamation Facility as directed by the Secretary of Energy Federico Pena. It addresses actions that have been taken at sites under the Albuquerque Operations Office. The specific action, as directed, is described below.

Emergency Management Decision Making. Emergency management decisions should be consistent with a conservative assessment of the situation. Emergency management training should emphasize making conservative judgments about facility conditions and personnel exposure in the absence of confirmed data. Key emergency management personnel will be trained on this matter within 60 days and Field Office managers shall confirm that this milestone has been achieved. Realistic exercises will be conducted and will include and confirm this decision making capability.

Pantex Plant, (Amarillo Area Office)(AAO)

Emergency Management decision making at Pantex is consistent with a conservative assessment of the situation at hand. Emergency Management training emphasizes making conservative judgments about facility conditions and personnel exposure in the absence of confirmed data. Results are validated in the level of performance that has been consistently demonstrated in the Pantex Plant's rigorous Emergency Drills and Exercise Program, and in real-world events that have occurred.

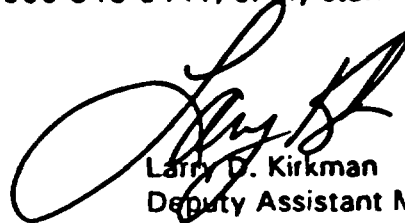
To further enhance decision making abilities, Pantex Plant has requested that the course, *"Emergency Management Decision Making"* be conducted at the Pantex Plant. Two sessions of this course were offered on October 9, 1997. The course, conducted by DOE HQ, Office of Emergency Management, exposed approximately 40 key emergency response personnel in making conservative judgments about facility conditions and personnel exposures in the absence of confirmed data. Pantex Plant has several scenarios in which this condition could exist. Some of these scenarios were provided to NN-60 as part of the course curriculum. Pantex attendees, both from AAO and the contractor, are part of the decision maker team which include Plant Shift Superintendents, Emergency Management Staff, and Incident Command Center Coordinators.

John J. Nettles Jr.

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On October 15, 1997, senior management from AL were briefed on emergency management initiatives as a result of the Hanford event. Copies of the briefing were mailed to all AL Area Office Emergency Managers emphasizing to management the early categorization and notification of incidents.

If you have questions on this matter, please contact George Carroll at 505-845-5555 or Woody Simpson at 505-845-6441, or my staff for additional assistance.



Larry D. Kirkman
Deputy Assistant Manager
Office of Technical Management
and Operations

Attachment

cc w/attachment:
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